

THE GOSPEL OF MONEY.

Never in all the history of the world has the dollar been so dominant. To police our country, the present session of Congress has appropriated over seven hundred millions of dollars. The education of our youths costs us in the neighborhood of five hundred millions a year. Business speaks in billions now where thousands used to astonish. We are not surprised at immense sums today.

Money is accumulated energy or discounted power. The world is finding itself in large terms, and finds money the indispensable thing in every enterprise.

Money has its legitimate place in the gospel. While it can never take the place of personal service and individual devotion, money has a large work to do in the gospel plan.

Mercy for the race is not measured in the cold terms of traffic, nor does missionary effort become the exponent of money, yet the wealth of the Christian world has a great work in the extension of the kingdom. We are told the nations shall bring their wealth into it. If we must give ourselves, we cannot refuse our means too. If money is accumulated energy, it is just as valuable as present and unstored energy. Reserves are as necessary to win the battle as first-line troops—dollars as necessary as devotion.

One of the glories of the Christian religion is that it has harnessed the wealth of men to the gospel car. It was true in Paul's day that not many noble were called. It can hardly be true today, when we read the roll of illustrious leaders in every sphere of human life. One has said that ninety per cent. of the leaders of American life and business are devout and consecrated Christian men. It is a glorious tribute to the overpowering gospel of Jesus Christ that it saves the mighty, as well as the mean.

It may have been true in the era of James that the rich did universally oppress the poor—hold back their wages and murder them, but it can hardly be called the fact now. Recently Atlanta has honored herself by calling one of her wealthiest citizens to the highest office in her gift. Mr. Asa G. Candler has made his money honestly and what is equally as good, is spending it wisely and righteously. No good work has ever appealed to him in vain, and he is as well-known for his Christian consecration as for his large means.

Money ought always to be consecrated to God's service. What a marvelous work it can do! The cost of a battleship will endow a half a dozen colleges. The battleship is necessary, but in the long run the Christian college will make for righteousness, as a battleship never can.

Double the gifts to foreign missions and the world will hear the gospel in a generation. Increase the gifts along all lines and every cause of benevolence will thrive as it never has.

Many a languishing business needs a new infusion of money to make it go. Fifty-three per cent of failures come from too small capital. So, in the Church we are trying to live at very poor dying rate, because the people of God have never waked up to the fact that money plays a large part in the spread of the gospel.

Let us get rid of some foolish ideas in regard to money and the kingdom. The Church needs more than a beggars dole, "the chips and the whetstones" of a niggardly pocket-book. The kingdom needs dollars, not dimes—millions, not mites. And the sooner we wake up to the fact that the Church is failing because she does not do things that are large and costly. Go to an average business man and talk to him about a few thousand dollars for the evan-

gelization of the world and he will laugh the Church out of hearing. The matter must be insignificant. He has been used to thinking in terms of millions, and any enterprise that claims to be the most important ever launched by man or God and only talks about a few thousand has no standing in his mind.

It is demeaning to God. He owns the world, and for His glory we should stand ready to do large things. He is a magnificent God. He handles the mightiest forces of the earth. The thunder-bolts are His weapons. The seas obey Him; shall we undertake His work with feeble reeds, and futile weapons? God has never been satisfied with anything else than the best. In a certain Virginia town where a denomination had built a fine home for its popular minister and a rather poor church, the witty Sam Jones said: "This congregation thinks more of its minister than it does of its God." And in that he voiced the unspoken sentiment of every passer-by.

This failure to see and supply the need of large funds for the kingdom delays and deadens every enterprise of the Church.

The Church needs more capital. More money to do the necessary things. When the Foreign Mission office calls for a \$1,000,000, it can use that much. When the Home Mission office says we need \$334,000 it means that every dollar can be wisely expended **right now** to make languishing enterprises to live and bear fruit.

At the poor dying rate we are going on, we will never conquer this world for our Master.

Let us put away the apologetic tone with which we ask for money for the kingdom. We know a church where a consecrated servant of God made a plea for money to launch a great enterprise; when he met the Session after worship, they asked him how much he wanted. He said \$100, with a grunt, one of the elders moved that it be given him. Afterwards he remarked: "We were ready to give him a thousand dollars."

Get rid of the idea that the Church is a beggar. Money given is money invested. It is no more beggary than the investment of money in U. S. Steel. It is the highest and best investment man ever made.

Consecrated wealth will never take the place of personal service, but God's money will put forward the kingdom. A. A. L.

STUDENTS PROTECTING THEMSELVES.

Recently the Student Young Men's Christian Association Conference of the Middle West met at Lake Geneva. There were 903 students in attendance, representing 125 colleges. The Conference unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas, Gambling, profanity, dishonesty, immodest dancing, and other social excesses, the use of tobacco and liquor have become a menace to the student life of our universities and colleges, and are undermining character and destroying the capacity for Christian leadership;

"Resolved, That we, the delegates to this Conference, place ourselves on record as being unqualifiedly opposed to these destructive practices, and do hereby pledge ourselves, with the help of God, to the eradication of these evils from the student life of the college and universities of the Middle West.

"Resolved, That this Conference appoint, through its chairman, a committee of fifteen, composed as follows: Nine students, two faculty members, two university pastors, and two Association secretaries, to prepare a statement in which the evils of student life shall

be enumerated and examples of successful remedial measures be pointed out.

"Resolved, That a copy of this statement be sent to every college president, college dean, Young Men's Christian Association secretary, university pastor, and to every other influential person interested in improving the character and efficiency of college men, and that this statement be used as a means of initiating a general movement against all pernicious and undermining practices of college men."

This action of the students shows an admirable trend of sentiment. If the evils here mentioned could be eradicated from the life of college students, there would be a wonderful difference in the men who come out from these institutions. Many a young man goes to college without having acquired such habits, but being thrown into contact with those who are habituated to such practices, he is unable to resist. Some of the smaller colleges are comparatively free from these vices. But most of them are very much permeated with these evils.

The governing authorities of these institutions ought to do all in their power to protect the young men committed to their care from all the evils from which it is possible to shield them. Some times the authorities seem to ignore the habits of students entirely, as long as no outrageous public offense is committed. Sometimes they wink at their evil deeds, being afraid to say anything or take any definite action for fear students will be driven away from the institution. The fact is that any college that will establish a reputation for the clean lives of its students will have a far better chance to secure students than one which has a bad reputation in this respect.

Of course it will be very difficult for the authorities to handle this question, though they can do much in the interest of a clean college life. The best course to pursue is for the students to take the matter into their own hands. Any Christian student who has been in college one session, knows enough to realize the danger to the new student, and he should do all in his power to shield him.

If these young men who made up this conference can get the other Christian men in the colleges, including the faculty, to join them in a campaign against these evils, they will be able in most cases to accomplish a great deal. A quiet, persistent effort to awaken the student conscience on this subject will be the most effective method. Above all things let the Christians show an entirely clean life before their fellow students, avoiding carefully all forms of evil practice.

Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon this subject. Every evil practice weakens the young man, and when it becomes a habit it is a constant drain upon his strength. Evil habits are injurious in many ways. They cause a waste of time. They are expensive, for almost every one of them leads to the spending of money that should not be thrown away. They weaken the man mentally and sap his physical strength. Everyone of these habits is hurtful to the soul. They keep the unconverted away from Christ. They make it hard for the Christian to draw near to Him, and they incapacitate him for working for the Master in the salvation of souls.

It is most earnestly hoped that these students in the Conference will carry their enthusiasm back to their colleges, and now at the beginning of the session, let plans be laid for deepening the spiritual life of the students. Great good will be accomplished. For when given a proper chance the good will drive out the evil.